THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Government had received proposal from the Government of Kerala for transfer of land (58.85 acres in Kooveri village and 50 acres in Peringam village) in Kannur District of Kerala for establishment of RTC and RAF Bn. for CRPF.

(b) However, the land offered by the State Government is not found adequate and suitable in the absence of necessary infrastructural facilities. The State Government has been requested to offer some other land at suitable location, close to any District Headquarters.

Timber Extraction

5947. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of timber extraction permitted from the Forests of Karnataka per annum;

(b) the number of permits issued for such extraction so far;

(c) the number of sandalwood industries benefited therefrom so far;

(d) the quantity of timber extracted and allowed to be transhiped out of the State during the last three years upto 31 March, 1997;

(e) whether any firm policy is being adopted for re-forestation in that areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Slow Poisoining at the Hearth

5948. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Slow Poisoning at the hearth" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated March 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to countenance this situation particularly in slums keeping in view the economic, social and environmental consideraions?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item captioned "Slow Poisoning at the Hearth" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated March 28, 1997 has dealt with indoor air pollution due to cooking using low grade fuel which is affecting the health of people particularly women of the weaker sections of the society. The findings are based on the study made by the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI)

(c) The nature and magnitude of indoor air pollution depends upon the nature and quality of fuel used, design of Chulahs, ventilation system, etc. the study done by the TERI is of limited nature relying on a sample size. Since no definite conclusions have been drawn from the study, TERI has advocated detailed scientific study of the fuel supply and demand situation in slum areas.

(d) The steps taken to make general awareness about indoor air pollution include the following :

1. The Government is implementing two Central sector schemes, namely, National Programme of Improved Chulha and National Project on Biogas Development which caters to family- size biogas plants. The Government is also providing subsidy and other incentives for promotion of these devices in the rural and slum areas with the objective to reduce air pollution.

2. General environmental awareness campaigns have been launched.

Accelerated Promotions in Delhi Police

5949. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there any policy directions for Delhi Police to grant accelerated promotions to its personnel who are involved in apprehending the wanted offenders in the armed encounters;

(b) if so, the specific guidelines alongwith the number of Delhi Police personnel who received accelerated promotions under these guidelines during the last three years, year -wise;

(c) the details of armed encounters during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have come across reports alleging level of accelerated promotion and incentives to be the prompting cause for some ambitious police personnel to indulge in to the fake the armed encounters; and

(e) if so, the measures taken to curb such disadvantages of the Promotion Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and